

1 **ATOMIC-10**

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3 **STRAP CONNECTING BUCKLE**

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6 **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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9 A one-hand operated strap buckle capable of withstanding high
10 forces and yet simple to operate and easily connected to a post
11 and disconnected from a post. In a preferred embodiment, the
12 buckle comprises upper and lower cases, the latter forming a slot
13 for receiving a post with a flat head. When connected to a post,
14 the buckle is secured to the post by a pair of swing arms
15 terminating at locking hooks. The position of the swing arms is
16 normally closed, but may be readily altered to an open position
17 by a pair of opposed spring-loaded release tabs which when
18 compressed toward one another, open the swing arms and separate
19 the locking hooks. The buckle of the invention also comprises a
20 strap release which is spring-loaded and normally engages the
21 teeth of a strap by employing a spring-loaded catch which can be
22 rotated away from the strap with tilting of the strap release
23 around a fulcrum bearing. The locking hooks of the preferred
24 embodiment, when in their locked position, assure a secure
25 connection to the post which connection can withstand very high
26 forces. Yet the locking hooks are easily separated when it is
27 desired to release the strap from the post by simply squeezing
28 the release tabs towards one another.